

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to the provision of highly reliable article information to customers in relationship to the electronic transaction of secondhand articles. Taking trading in secondhand construction machines as an example, when a construction machine 80 is used, the current location and cumulative operating hours of that machine 80 are monitored regularly or as required and stored as usage history on a data base 31. Also, photographs of the construction machine are taken as required while it is in use, and stored as usage history on a data base 31. Furthermore, history of the service (maintenance, repairs, and inspections) of the construction machine 80 is also stored on a data base 31. When the construction machine 80 in use is sold as a secondhand article, the current state (for example, the current cumulative operating hours), usage history, and service history of the construction machine 80 stored in the data base 31 is provided to a customer's terminal 60 from the sales server 32 via the Internet. The current state of the construction machine 80 is updated as it is used.